

- The MONTH with the EDITOR -

Notes, reflections, comment upon medical and health news in both the scientific and public press, briefs of sorts from here, there and everywhere.

Those physicians, if there are any such, who have endorsed the Sheppard-Towner Act will find much of interest in W. C. Woodward's analysis of this paternalistic fad in the Amer. Med. Assn. Bull., May, 1926.

The country physician can handle 80 or 90 per cent of his practice with self-respect; his city brother can do no more. And as for the intellectual barrenness of country practice, the resourcefulness that it calls for, the responsibilities that it demands, the problems that must be tackled, furnish to an intelligent man a sort of stimulation that is satisfying and that brings out the best that there is in him.—William Allen Pusey, Journal A. M. A., May 15, 1926.

A birth control specialist from Boston recently told the Commonwealth Club that the majority of doctors endorsed his propaganda!

It is probably true that some doctors are helping birth controllers make "motherhood voluntary and discriminate."

Does not the accuracy of the crusader's statement that the "installation cost" of a baby was between \$200 and \$300, depend upon what he means by "installation"?

Last year the news wires carried the story around the world that a million of these little innocents were "installed" in the bottom of a river in one country.

Physicians who are interested in industrial medicine and persons who help insurance companies—state and private—pay the costs of care of their beneficiaries by contributing to the support of hospitals that render these services at less than cost will find much to meditate over in an article by Editor Rector, Nation's Health, May, 1926, page 317.

CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE frequently has called attention to this peculiar form of "charity," (?) which is widely prevalent in California.

Exhibitors at C. M. A. Sessions—The C. M. A. has for some years carried out a policy of permitting only those who advertise in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE to exhibit at the annual sessions of the Association. This policy is very popular with advertisers, who rightly interpret it as a worthwhile return for their support of the Association and its publication.

It is helpful to doctors because they meet at every booth representatives of ethical dealers whose products and methods have been carefully looked into and accepted by their own organization.

Visitors gain helpful ideas of the materials and methods endorsed by a great medical organization, some of which lead to practical results of value to the public health and to legitimate business interests.

Under this policy the exhibits at the 1926 session were particularly attractive, educational, and useful. The exhibitors felt at home with those whose patronage they invite, and the spirit about the exhibits was friendly and mutually helpful.

Advertisers who took advantage of this privilege were:

Alexander Sanitarium (occupational therapy work of patients); Bischoff's Surgical House; Calso Water Company; Certified Laboratory Products; Cutter Laboratory; Robert A. Fischer; Hanovia Chemical and Manufacturing Company; C. H. Hittenberger Company; Horlick's Malted Milk Corporation; Laboratory Products Company; Medical Protective Company; Mellin's Food Company; Merrell-Soule Company; Napa Rock Mineral Water Company; Physio-Therapy Manufacturing Company; R. L. Scherer and Company; Shasta Water

Company; Spindler & Sauppe for E. Leitz; and Travers Surgical Company.

This policy of permitting advertisers only to exhibit at C. M. A. sessions will be continued, and under it exhibits at the 1927 session at the Los Angeles Biltmore should be even more successful than heretofore.

Preparations for the 1927 session are already under way, and advertiser-exhibitors may make their arrangements as to space and other details with Dr. William Duffield, Auditorium Building, Los Angeles.

God bless Uncle Joe Cannon, who so far has avoided the pitfalls of many other near centenarians by not telling the world how to live long. Why is it that highly respected citizens whose ears ring with the deserved plaudits of mankind for outstanding service in some phase of industry get slobbery about health as they reach the age of senescence?

The Opticians' League of New York announce in advertisements that they are organized "to support constructively the dispensing policy and ethical purposes of the oculist."

Henry Ford gets front page black type for saying that doctors are "beginning to find out that disease springs from food." Sic!

"Every patient is a private patient." "A patient is a patient, not an exhibit." "Self-respect forms a part of a patient's health." This and more sayeth Henry Ford. Platitudes, yes. Old stuff, yes; but maybe it will help to have them again as the first-page stories they now are.

We continue to civilize primitive peoples. The Charleston is replacing the hulahula in Hawaii.—Pittsburgh Chronicle Telegraph.

The word "participation" more exactly expresses the physician's point of view of harmony of action among the trinity of workers in public health. It comes from two Latin terms, *pars*—part, and *capere*—to take; therefore, to take part. Physicians are ready to take their part in any phase of public health work. Their peculiar field is technical work for which they alone are qualified, both legally and scientifically. Their relation to other groups in anti-tuberculosis movements, anti-diphtheria campaigns, and similar activities is expressed by the word "participation" more happily than by the word "cooperation."—New York State Med. Journ., May 1, 1926.

Grandma Pash says there's too much tomfoolery mixed up in th' raisin' o' children nowadays. She ought t' know; she's lost eleven.—Abe Martin.

During the last few years a great deal has been written for the general public about the value of health and how to keep well. Such information is not confined to special health publications, but is quite general in the daily press. There is hardly a big newspaper today that does not have its health editor and health column, in which it undertakes to give more or less information to its readers on how to avoid illness, or what to do to regain strength and well-being.—The Nation's Health, May 15, 1926.

About Books—Among the many pleasures of growing old in medicine are the privileges and opportunities to reflect and meditate over one's trials, tribulations, mistakes and successes encountered in grim battles on the

outposts of health which make up a large part of every physician's life.

When one who has these privileges takes the opportunity to enrich his meditations and dreams, if you please, by perusing the biographies of great physicians, the autumn of life may be made happy indeed. But such reading is liable to emphasize regrets that strenuous student days and the necessity of making a livelihood prevented one's acquiring the valuable information stored away in the annals of medical history at a time of life when its usefulness might have been applied.

Exceedingly well-written biographies of physicians are being put out in considerable numbers. We have called special attention to some of them, as, for example, "The Gold-Headed Cane." "Pediatrics of the Past" by John Ruhräh (Paul Hoeber, Inc.), is a particularly fascinating story that should be read by every physician and particularly those who include children among their patients. H. L. Mencken in reviewing this book for the Baltimore "Evening Sun" says of it: "What could be more unpromising that the subject matter of this tall and stately book; the dreadful bellyaches of infants in arms, their forbidding spasms and bellowings, their gruesome and often losing struggles with worms, the occult mysteries of their feeding? Yet Doctor Ruhräh somehow manages to make it fascinating, and even charming. Himself an active practitioner upon the young, he has interested himself for years in the ideas and doings of his predecessors in that art, especially those of centuries ago, and here he gathers together some of the fruits of his long inquiry, with illuminating and often sardonic comments. There are extracts from the primeval pediatricians, sometimes long ones, and there are historical and professional notes upon their lives and times. It is a curiously interesting book, and there is a lot of strange stuff in it."

Dr. Fielding H. Garrison has given us another charming, delightful, useful little book, "The Principles of Anatomic Illustrations Before Vesalius" (Paul B. Hoeber, Inc.). If medical students were made familiar with this illustrated inquiry into the rationale of artistic anatomy early in their careers, how much more appealing that "dry subject" of medicine would become! Even the physician who graduated years ago will forget some of the one-time disagreeable features connected with the study of anatomy in the perusal of this story, and all but the unusually wise will also learn something.

Parasitic Protozoa of Man. By Charles F. Craig. Lipincott, 1926.

With his experiences and the facilities at his command, Craig should have written a more useful book on this important subject. There is much to commend in it, and its careful perusal should be helpful to physicians who do not find time to follow the voluminous discussions that make up the literature of diseases caused by protozoa. In more than one place the author handles the published conclusions of other workers as the Georgia woman accused General Sherman of handling fire—carelessly. Nonmedically educated protozoologists who during recent years have made such valiant attempts to make a disease—amebiasis, for example—fit their conception of what a parasite should do, rather than the other way around, will gain much needed comfort from the opinions of the distinguished author of this book.

Some reviewers have used their literary lancers rather vigorously on Voronoff's book, "Rejuvenation by Grafting." To hold his book up alongside the acres of newspaper space this man has had, does make a rather pathetic picture. Newspaper notoriety has finished many another shadow boxer, but still they come.

Van Buren Thorne (New York Times) in his review of Voronoff's book justly excoriates the author for accepting credit for discoveries already made and largely discarded by an American surgeon years before Voronoff caught the fancy of newspaper reporters.

Voronoff did not even mention Frank Lydston in his

earlier book "Life," and in his latest book he only mentions Lydston casually, and misspells his name at that.

My Wet Creed: I am an abstainer. I am an abstainer now and I was an abstainer before the Volstead Act was passed. But there are some things I deny the right of the government to govern me. I deny the government the right to say whom I shall marry. I deny it the right to say how many children I shall have. And I deny it the right to come to my dinner table, invading my house, and say what I shall drink or what I shall eat. Otherwise I would be a fool or a slave.—Capt. William H. Stayton, formerly president of the Navy League of America.

It is said that 150,000 boys will graduate from American high schools this summer. They will have 300,000 hands not one of which will grip a plow-handle, an ax helve, or an engine throttle.—Houston Post-Dispatch.

The death the other day of Martin A. Delaney, physical director of the Chicago Athletic Club, after a short sprint for a street-car, renews attention to the peril known as the athletic heart. Mr. Delaney was 55. William Blaikie, who lectured on "How to Get Strong," and Walter Camp, teacher of correct living, also passed away suddenly at what should have been the very prime of life. Not how to get strong, but how to be normal, temperate in physical habit and careful, is the lesson most of us need to learn. There is danger in overdoing.—San Francisco Examiner.

Thus again we see sound conclusions slowly catching up with a foolish fad.

Whatever other reactions one may get from reading Isa Glenn's "Heat" (Knopf) the injustice of her implications and conclusions must take first place in the minds of those long resident in the Pearl of the Orient.

There were, and are, characters in Manila as weak and vicious as any Miss Glenn describes, but to intimate that they are representative of either Americans or Filipinos is simply atrocious. "Going native" should not be limited to Manila. Many of that type who never leave home shores "go native" quite effectively.

This author's estimate of Filipino character is so little representative and her poisoned darts are so clumsily thrown as to suggest to those experienced in tropical matters—physicians in particular—a source of "Heat" not contemplated by the author.

The one important message in the book is a socio-health one, but it is so obscured as to be unutilizable except to the initiated, and they don't need it. It is unfortunate that reviewers like Mencken and others see in "Heat" an unexaggerated story of the lives of Americans in the Philippines.

The Sixth Edition of "Diagnostic Standards" in tuberculosis is issued by the National Tuberculosis Association. Physicians who like their information in tabloid form; who do not keep up with medical progress; or who need a brief reminder of fundamental points in the diagnosis of this important disease may find this little pamphlet useful. Copies may be had by addressing the state or national tuberculosis association.

Even busy doctors may find time to read "Charcot Centennial Anniversary" number of the Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine.

The one hundredth anniversary of the birth (November 25, 1825) of this "greatest physician of the nineteenth century" has been made the occasion around the world for a review of his influence on medicine.

"To read the countless tributes from all lands following his death and during the present year," says F. H. Garrison, "is to realize that Charcot was not only the greatest physician of France, but, in relation to his period, of the whole world."